

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICE  
APPLICATION - PART 1

(Placeland to the Law of the Act of 1976)

1. The purpose of this form is to provide a means for the evaluation of the significance of a property. The form is to be completed by the owner of the property or by a person authorized by the owner. The form is to be completed in accordance with the instructions on the reverse side of this form. The form is to be completed in accordance with the instructions on the reverse side of this form. The form is to be completed in accordance with the instructions on the reverse side of this form.

## PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

## 1. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Address of property (Street): 915 St. Paul Street  
 City: Baltimore County: Baltimore State: Maryland Zip Code: 21202  
 The structure is located in a historic district, if so, name: Baltimore City Historic District, 1964

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(Please attach photos for top and plan views, with measurements, use reverse side if necessary)

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

## 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Use reverse side if necessary)

SEE ATTACHED SHEETS

Date of construction (if known): c. 1850 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known): mid 20th cent.

## 4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER

Name: Sommers and Sommers, c/o Milton Sommers  
 Street: 824 Park Avenue  
 City: Baltimore State: Maryland Zip Code: 21202  
 Telephone Number (including day): Area Code: (301) 728-1400

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge correct and that I am owner of the property described above

Signature: Barbara Hoff, Dolgener, Calverton and Associates, Inc.  
14 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## For official use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district

The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60)

The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60) and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of said district

Signature: [Signature] Date: 3-11-82  
 State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954:

☐ has been certified a historic structure

☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative of the National Register

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION--PART I

Page 2

Name/Address of Property: 916 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Name/Address of Owner: Sommers &amp; Sommers, 824 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202

Telephone: (301) 728-1400

Prepared by: Barbara Hoff, Dalseger, Catzen and Associates, Inc.

14 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Telephone: (301) 837-2691

DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

916 St. Paul Street exemplifies the simple yet elegant rowhouses still existing in the Mount Vernon Historic District. Buildings such as it blend with one another to create the significant architectural environment of the district. 916 St. Paul Street is a three bay, three story Italianate rowhouse with a high basement and shed roof. Built of masonry, it has a stuccoed brick facade.

The building is set back from the street; consequently it has a front yard. The yard has a cast iron fence with a wrought iron gate.

The basement level contains a central and a southern window with iron grills over them. Marble steps with two iron balustrades lead up to a round arched doorway. The wood door has eight raised panels and a leaded fan light above. It is flush with the opening.

The first floor windows are long, attenuated nine over nine wood sash windows with painted stone subsills. Each has one over one white aluminum storm windows and blinds which are neither original nor appropriate to the facade. The second and third stories have six over six wood sash windows which shorten at each upper story, stone subsills, and aluminum storm windows.

Above the third floor fenestration is a wood cornice with a brick frieze area marked by a molded wood strip at its bottom edge. The cornice contains large modillion blocks and dentils.

Both the north and south sides are attached to other buildings and hence are unobservable. The south bay of the west facade of the house has two over two double hung windows with wood sills, flat arches, aluminum storm windows, and, on the first floor, iron grills. An iron fire escape extends down this bay.

The central and north bays of the main building's west facade contain a five bay long, two bay wide, three story high back building built of partially painted common bond brick. It has a shed roof and corbelled brick cornice. The west wall of this structure has a paneled wood door with an aluminum storm door located in the north bay. The first and second floor have two over two wood windows with wood sills, flat arches and aluminum storm windows. The first floor also has an unoriginal wood awning across it. The third floor contains two by two square casement windows with the same details as the others. There is a chimney in the center of the wall.

The south wall of this structure contains wood double hung windows with aluminum storm windows. The first floor has iron screens and the third floor has casement windows.

The interior still retains its original rowhouse plan of rooms organized in a line parallel to a circulation axis, and the rooms have been converted into apartments. The interior vestibule door has a simple wood fanlight. The vestibule has a hexagonal marble tile.

Name/Address of Property: 916 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

### DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the hallway, the original radiator, tongue and groove wainscoting, and crown molding remain. The crown molding contains an elaborate motif of ornate leaves spiraled around a rod. The floor is now linoleum, and the walls have had wood paneling applied over them. The original newel post and balustrade for the staircase remain also. The balusters are turned and the newel post contains a variety of decorations on a Doric column.

A typical apartment contains its original wood floors, architrave surrounds on the door and window openings, as well as baseboards. The details include a plaster foliated crown molding, marble mantels, and inlaid mahogany in the floors.

The conversion of this structure into an apartment house is typical of the area which now consists mainly of professional offices and apartments. In general, the building still retains its original character in its materials, scale, plan, proportion, and details. As a result, the building augments the special environment of the Mount Vernon Historic District.

Name/address of Property: 916 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Name/address of Owners: Somers and Somers, 824 Park Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Telephone: (301) 728-1400

Prepared by: Barbara Hoff, Dalsemer, Catzen and Associates, Inc.

14 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Telephone: (301) 837-3691

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of 916 St. Paul Street lies in its architectural contribution to the environment of the Mount Vernon Historic District.

The Mount Vernon Historic District is both a Baltimore City District and, in part, a National Register Historic Landmark District. Mount Vernon was the first Historic District in Baltimore City, designated in 1964 and expanded five times to the current boundaries, which have been certified by the Department of the Interior for purposes of the Historic Preservation Tax Incentives. The ordinance creating the Mount Vernon Historic District also established the Baltimore City Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation to oversee all changes within the District and to recommend other areas and buildings in the City for historic designation. The Historic District and the Commission were outgrowths of the Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Plan, one of the City's earliest efforts to incorporate preservation and renovation of existing structures with new development. The current Historic District now encompasses two Urban Renewal Areas: Mount Vernon and Midtown-Belvedere.

The Mount Vernon Historic District grew from the early 19th century through the early 20th century and retains structures--residential, commercial, and religious--from that time. The area was Baltimore's most fashionable neighborhood and as such includes some of the finest architecture in the City, built for wealthy residents, congregations, and institutions, and designed by architects of local and national renown. The greater portion of the district was once the estate of John Eager Howard, revolutionary war patriot and statesman. His mansion, Belvidere, was located at what is now the 1000 block of North Calvert Street. The centerpiece of the district is the Washington Monument and Mount Vernon Place. The monument is the first formal monument erected to commemorate George Washington and is one of the finest examples of monumental architecture in the country. It was erected from 1815 to 1829 and designed by Robert Mills, one of the first American born and trained architects in the country. The development of the squares known as Mount Vernon Place and Washington Place, dates from the 1830's, when the land was subdivided by Howard's heirs, who then built some of the first houses. Prior to the construction of the monument and the development of the squares, brick working class houses were built on Tyson Street, Read Street and North Howard Street, the earliest dating from 1810. These buildings still exist, some are residences and others have been converted to antique shops. The houses on Hamilton Street date from 1820 and were designed by Robert Cary Long Sr. the architect of the Peale Museum and Davidge Hall.

The area which is now the Historic District continued to develop. Baltimore's prominent and wealthy residents moved north to the rural area because the land around the harbor was rapidly becoming industrialized and because the City was flooded with immigrants, who flocked to Baltimore to work in the newly established industries. Construction continued to take place in the 1880's and 1890's after the Howard estate had been sold. By the early 20th century, Mount Royal Avenue and parts of Howard Street had been developed, completing the construction in the district.

Name/Address of Property: 916 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

B-3800

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

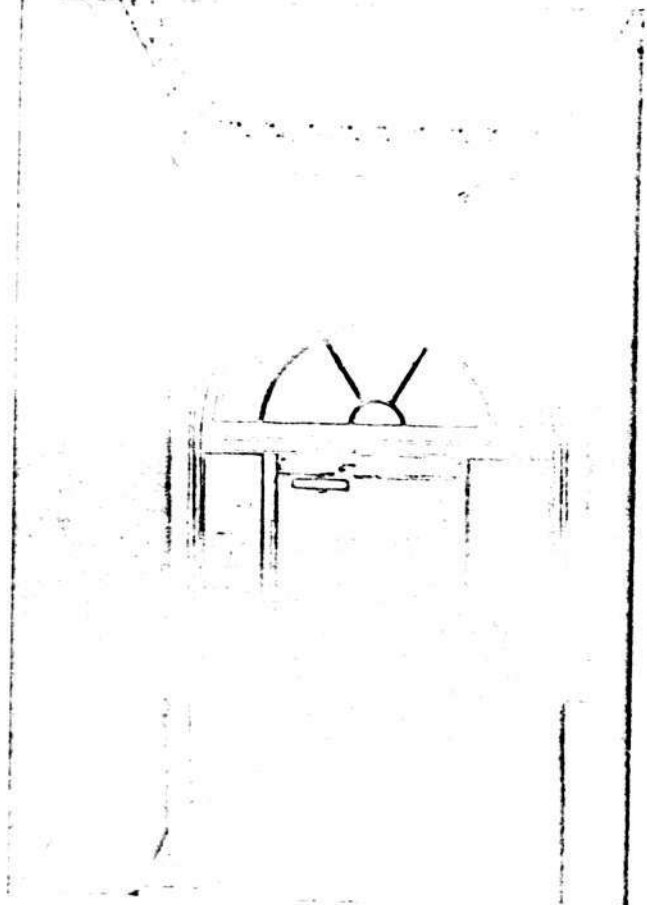
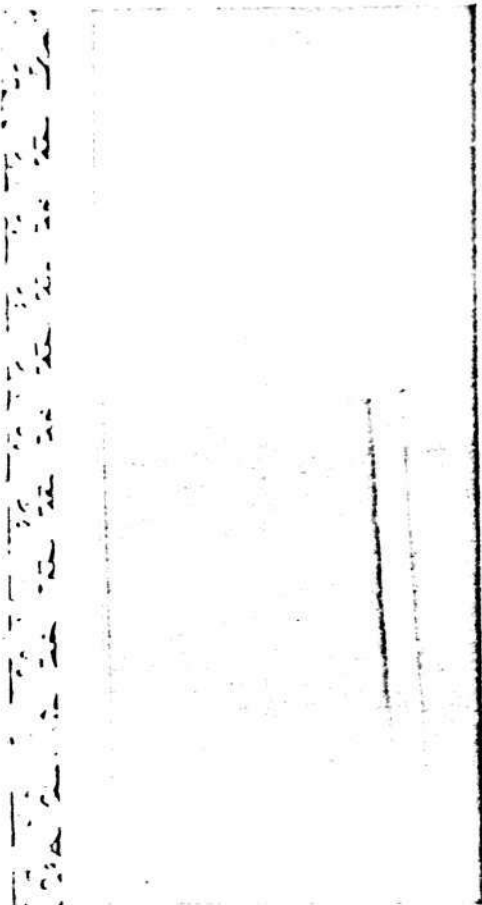
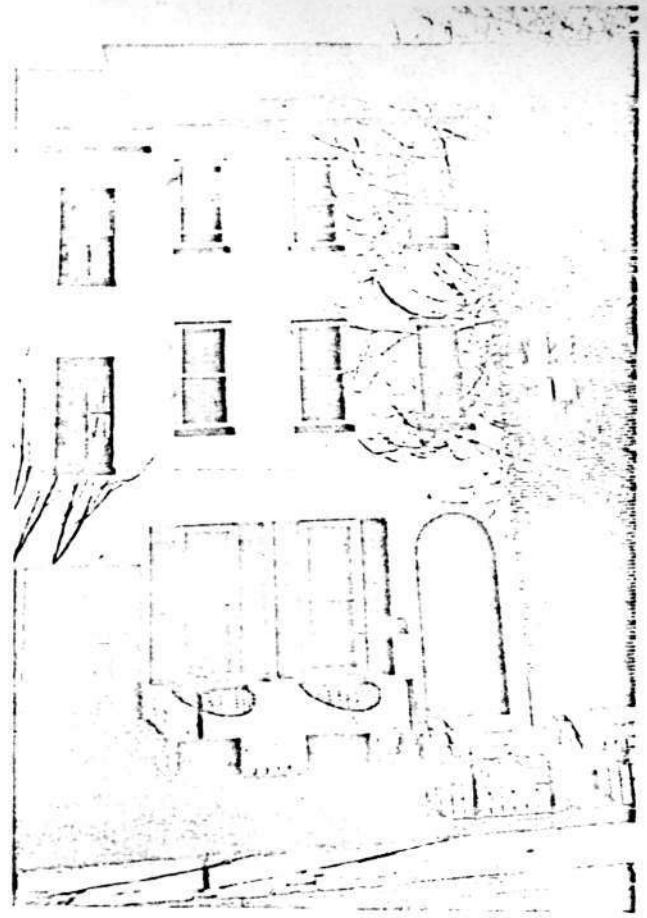
Architecturally, Mount Vernon displays a complete range of 19th century building styles: Greek Revival, early and late Renaissance Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Victorian Gothic, Chateau, Beaux-Arts, Colonial Revival, Art Deco; and combinations and vernacular interpretations of these styles.

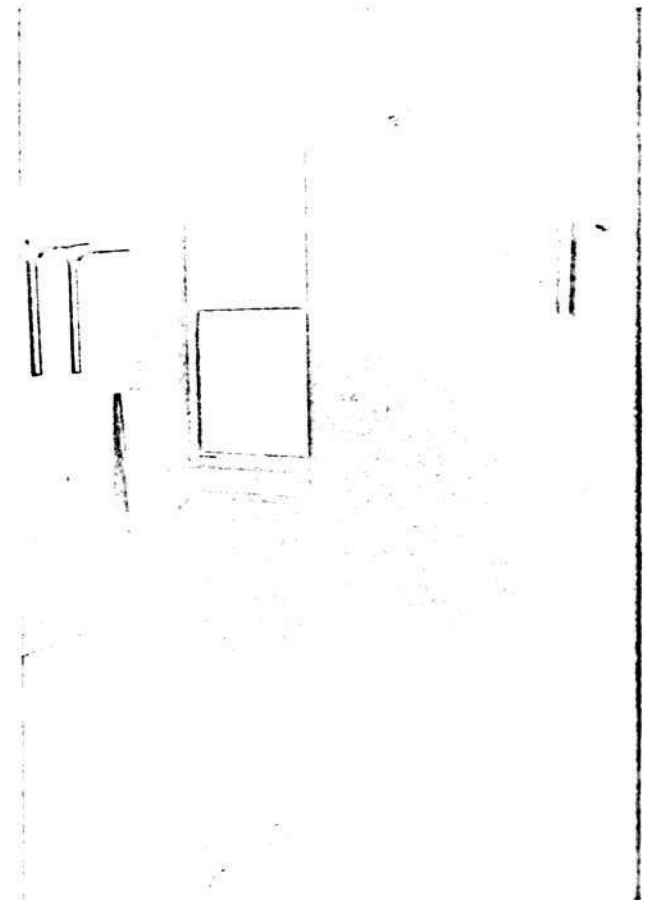
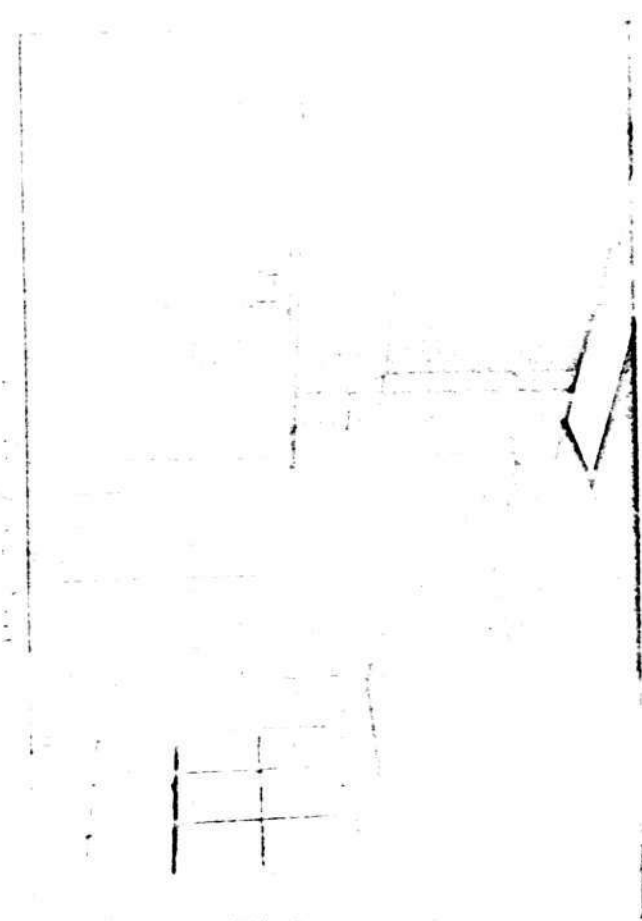
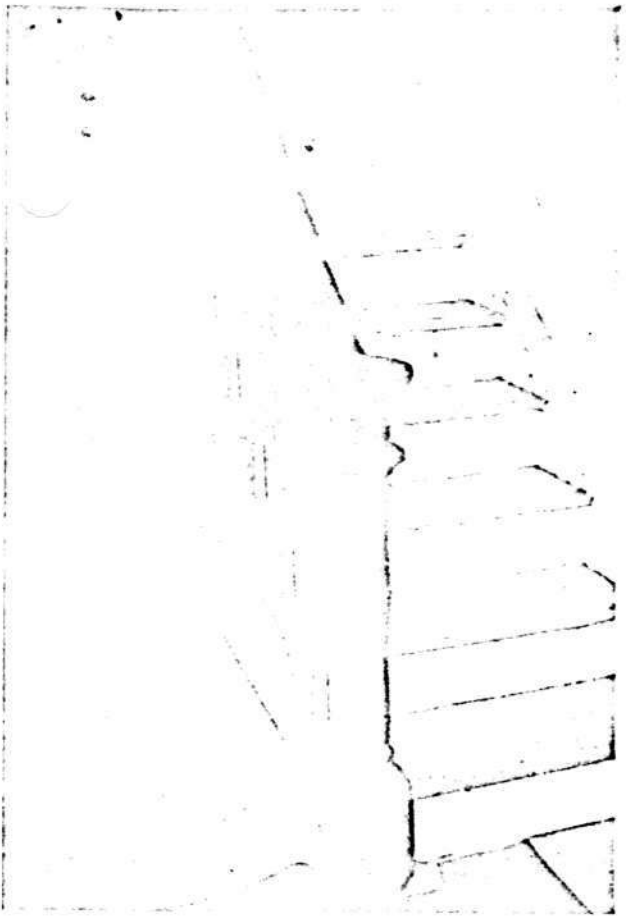
Many of the elegant townhouses and all of the churches, apartments, and hotels were designed by eminent local and national architects including; Stanford White, William A. Delano, John Russell Pope, Edmund G. Lind, Francis E. Baldwin and Josias Pennington, J.B. Noel Wyatt, J. Crawford Neilson, John Rudolph Niernsee, Joseph Evans Sperry, Nathan G. Starkweather, Jackson Gott, J.A. Wilson, Charles E. Cassell, Thomas Dixon and Charles Carson, Harleston J. Parker and Douglas H. Thomas, Edward H. Glidden, and noted contemporary architects including Edward Durrell Stone, James R. Grieses Associates and the firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott.

Among the prominent families who engaged these architects and lived in the area were the philanthropists; George Peabody, Enoch Pratt, and William and Henry Walters, who founded the Peabody Conservatory of Music, The Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Walters Art Gallery, all of which are located in or on the boarder of the Mount Vernon District; the Winans family who developed railroad systems in this country and in Russia; several Johns Hopkins Hospital physicists and chemists, including Henry August Rowland and Ira Remsen; William Pinkney White, a Governor of the State, and Mayor of the City; and the Warfields, Pattersons, McKims, and Sissons, among others.

The specific architectural contribution of 916 St. Paul Street exists in three areas. First, the building possesses an historically important style: the Italianate, indicated by the large, elaborate cornice, tall windows, arched doorway and flat roof. This style, which flourished in Baltimore from about 1845 to about 1870, was the third major rowhouse style in Baltimore, following the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Secondly, the structure clearly was built as a residence and had a high quality of design: fine brickwork, marble trim, wood decoration, cast iron windows boxes and large scale. Such traits epitomize the district's character as a wealthy residential area. Finally, the materials of the structure as well as its scale and proportions blend in with neighboring houses to create a visually harmonious streetscape. The continuity of these streetscapes in turn produces the special historic fabric of the Mount Vernon Historic District.







# REVISIONS

Lots 15 to 17 Corrected Per Field Work C Sh. 1713 A.  
 Lot 32, 33, 34, 41 Corrected Per B & A C Sh. 2620 A.  
 Lot 30 Divided Per Deed, C Sh. 3360.  
 Lot 19 No. Changed Per B & A C Sh. 5719 A.

LOT 41 FREE HANDED PER L. D. C. Sh. 8631  
 LOT 30A (SICILIA) PER D. C. Sh. 9453

B-3800

E. EAGER

ST.

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**IN HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Maryland Club

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W EAGER ST

EAGER-READ

B-3800

SAINT PAUL ST

LOVEGROVE ST

CHARLES-LOVEGROVE

N CHARLES ST

MORTON ST

W READ ST

E EAGER ST

RAMP

HARGROVE AL

E READ ST

N CALVERT ST

GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

